

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 /088 W
-----010280 230730Z /20

R 211020Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1792
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANIL
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, NP, JA, RP, MY, CH
SUBJECT: PALACE ANNOUNCES ROYAL FAMILY VISIT TO JAPAN

1. ROYAL PALACE APRIL 20 FORMALLY ANNOUNCED THAT KING BIRENDRA AND QUEEN AISHWARYA WILL PAY STATE VISIT TO JAPAN FROM MAY 15-21. OFFICIAL PARTY IS TO INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS KING'S SISTER, PRINCESS SHOBHA, HER HUSBAND KUMAR MOHAN BAHADUR SHAHI AND FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL. ANNOUNCEMENT GAVE DETAILS OF SOCIAL AND OFFICIAL CALLS TO BE EXCHANGED, AND CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT THEIR MAJESTIES WOULD PAY UNOFFICIAL VISITS TO SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES ENROUTE. WHILE THESE COUNTRIES WERE NOT NAMED, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT, IN ADDITION TO STOP PLANNED IN PEKING ON WAY TO JAP,, MANILA AND KUALA LUMPUR ARE ON LIST FOR RETURN JOURNEY.

2. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL, WHILE STATING VISIT WOULD XPEN NEW CHAPTER IN NEPAL-JAPAN RELATIONS, "MADE IT PLAIN" THAT NO PROJECT ASSISTANCE WILL BE NEGOTIATED DURING THIS VISIT. RATHER VISIT WILL GENERATE FURTHER "UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN TWO NATIONS, WHICH IN TURN WILL "ENHANCE COOPERATION"
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ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL MATTERS.

3. COMMENT: ANNOUNCEMENT CONFIRMS DETAILS OF JAPAN VISIT AS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD FOR LAST SEVERAL MONTHS. IT IS CLEAR FROM ARYAL'S STATEMENT THAT EMPHASIS WILL BE STRONG ON CEREMONY AND GOOD WILL RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE--I.E. AID. WHILE THIS MAY BE SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTING IN TERMS OF GON HOPES (SEE 77 TOKYO 19646

ON OCCASION OF ARYAL'S VISIT LAST DECEMBER, GOJ ANNOUNCED NEW
AID GRANTS OF \$6 MILLION LESS THAN YEAR AGO WHEN VICE-FONMINISTER
OKUDA VISITED KATHMANDU IN JUNE 1977 (77 KATHMANDU 2495).
NEPAL'S TIES TO JAPAN GO BACK SOME YEARS (LATE KING MAHENDRA
MADE STATE VISIT IN 1960 AND OFFICIAL VISIT IN 1970; KING
BIRENDRA, WHILE CROWN PRINCE, STUDIED IN TOKYO IN 1967; AND
MEMBERS OF JAPANESE ROYAL FAMILY HAVE RECIPROCATED WITH
VISITS TO NEPAL). EVEN LACKING NEW AID COMMITMENT DURING
ROYAL VISIT, GON CAN UNDOUBTEDLY COUNT ON CONTINUED JAPANESE
HELP IN FUTURE.
EAVES

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